Noise Pollution Surveys

7079. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) in which cities the Noise Pollution Surveys were carried out in the recent past;

(b) what are the major findings of this survey; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce noise pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Noise Pollution Surveys have been conducted recently in Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Coimbatore and Mangalore. Noise levels were found generally within limits in industrial areas but often exceeded the prescribed standards in the commercial, residential and silence zones. The rising trend of noise in these cities is due to increase in human activities, including vehicular traffic.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to reduce noise pollution include the following:

(i) Noise standards have been notified for industrial, commercial, residential and silence zones.

(ii) Industries have been directed to install necessary noise pollution control equipment within a stipulated time-frame and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iii) The Central Pollution Control Board has evolved codes of practice for controlling noise from sources other than industries and automobiles. These include public address system, aircraft operation, railway operations, construction activities and bursting of crackers. State Governments have been asked to implement these codes of practice under the relevant local rules.

(iv) Noise limits for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment have been notified.

(v) Public awareness campaigns on the effects of pollution have been launched.

Afforestation under Garibi Hatao Scheme

7080. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the afforestation, started for Garibi Hatao Scheme under the 20-Point Programme, has been abandoned; and

(b) if so, what has been the detailed targets of 1993-94, 1994-95 and the achievements under this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pollution in Gomti River

7081. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Gomti water unfit for consumption", which appeared in "The Statesman", dated the 17th April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the pollution level in Gomti river is increasing and is posing danger for the life of human beings;

(c) whether Government have taken any serious approach in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increasing pollution level in River Gomti at Lucknow is mostly due to large number of nalas discharging untreated sewage into the river, and to some extent due to discharge of effluents from the industries referred to in the said news items. The Gomti water is being used for drinking purposes only after proper treatment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Gomti Action Plan, to improve it's water quality, has been approved by the Government on equal capital cost sharing basis between the Centre and the State, which *interalia*

provides for tapping of the sewage from these Nalas and treating the same before its final disposal. Industrial pollution is, however, proposed to be tackled through enforcement of pollution control law under which Industries are expected to set up pollution control devices as per the prescribed standards.

Pollution in Delhi and Ahmedabad

7082. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI G.G. SWELL:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of pollution injected into the atmosphere daily in Delhi and Ahmedabad;

(b) what is the effect of 1 ton pollution injected in a Delhi sized city, per day;

(c) what are the ill effects on human beings and environment, in general, of pollutants injected in Delhi;

(d) whether it is a fact that about 6000 tonnes of fly-ash and about 4,750 tonnes of garbage get deposited every day on the surface, of Delhi; and

(e) if so, what are the ill effects of such deposits on Delhi's surface on Humans and Environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the studies carried out by the Central Pollutants Control Board about 2000 tons of pollutions are emitted in the atmosphere everyday in Delhi, whereas in Ahmedabad it is about 1000 tons.

(b) The effects of a given quantity of release of pollutants depend on the characteristics and toxicity of the pollutants, local topography, meteorological and other conditions. No conclusive information is available on the effect of 1 ton pollutants injected in a Delhi sized city per day.

(c) The pollutants released in air can cause respiratory diseases such as bronchitis, bronchial asthma, lung problems and other diseases. There are also adverse effects on vegetations and property.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Apart from causing unaesthetic effects, deposits of fly-ash can cause respiratory diseases due to inhalation of the fine particles which can be dispersed by winds into the atmosphere. Garbage deposits are breeding ground for vectors.

Ranking of Delhi among polluted city

7083. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi has now become the 4th worst polluted city in the World;

(b) whether it is also a fact that water quality at Okhla is 4,800 times worse than the safe-level; and

(c) if so, what is the safe level of drinking water for human beings, animals and for agriculture, and what is the quality of water supply in Delhi to various sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report Delhi ranked 4th in respect of suspended particulate matter (SPM) among the most polluted cities in the world. This is due to industrial and vehicular emissions besides natural dusty conditions.

(b) Monitoring of raw water quality by the Central Pollution Control Board on the basis of average of the last six years shows that the BOD is 3 to 16 times higher, the faecal coliform count is 29 to 740 times higher and the dissolved oxygen is 2 to 6 times lower than the Primary Quality Criteria for drinking water source with conventional treatment.

The surface raw water is treated before it is supplied to the public in Delhi as drinking water. It is also ensured that the drinking water meets the quality limits laid down for the